

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-11 AF-06 EA-07 NEA-10

OIC-02 AGR-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03

H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15 STR-04 ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06

PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01 /134 W

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R 091400Z EAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9661

INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, ETRD

SUBJECT: COFFEE -- MEETING OF ICO EXECUTIVE BOARD

MARCH 4, 1976, VERIFICATION OF STOCKS ISSUE

REF: LONDON 3316

1. THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OF THE INTERNATIONAL COFFEE
ORGANIZATION (ICO) MET MARCH 3, WITH A NUMBER OF
ITEMS ON ITS AGENDA. THIS CABLE CONCERNS ITEM 4,
VERIFICATION OF STOCKS.

2. AT ISSUE UNDER ITEM 4 WAS APPROVAL OF THE DRAFT
RULES FOR THE ANNUAL VERIFICATION OF STOCKS. AS
REPORTED IN REFTEL, DURING AN EARLIER WORKING GROUP
MEETING, CONTPOVERSY HAD ARisen OVER A SECRETARIAT
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PROPOSAL THAT SAMPLES OF "MINIMUM EXPORT QUALITY" COFFEE BE FURNISHED THE ICO. COLOMBIA, PARTICULARLY, HAD OPPOSED THIS. AT THE MARCH 4 EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING, HOWEVER, A COMPROMISE WAS EASILY REACHED, AS FOLLOWS:

- (A) THE RULES WILL BE FOR ONE YEAR ONLY, THEREBY REQUIRING REVIEW AND POSSIBLE REVISION (FRG PROPOSAL).
- (B) DISCRETIONARY SUBMISSION OF SAMPLES BY EXPORTERS, IN ORDER TO "ASSIST THE SURVEYING AGENCY" AND CONTRIBUTE TO EFFICIENCY. (PARA 3 OF A MEXICAN PROPOSAL, WP BOARD 143). THIS WOULD REPLACE PARAS. 6 AND 7 OF WP BOARD 141 (DRAFT RULES); LAST SENTENCE OF PARA 20 AND PARA 22 (D) WOULD BE DELETED.
- (C) ADOPTION OF NEW PARA BASED UPON PARA 5 OF THE MEXICAN PROPOSAL, ENJOINING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO "FOLLOW CLOSELY THE WORK AND CONCLUSION OF THE SURVEYING AGENCY" AND PROPOSE APPROPRIATE

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AMENDMENTS TO THE RULES IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE
A GRADUAL IMPROVEMENT OF THE SYSTEM.

3. US REP ASKED EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (LOUDON) TO EXPLAIN EFFECT OF DELETION OF PARA 7 FROM DRAFT RULES, WHICH WOULD HAVE REQUIRED SEPARATE REPORTING OF COFFEE, COUNTED IN APPROVED WAREHOUSES, WHICH WAS BELOW EXPORTABLE QUALITY. LOUDON REPLIED PARA 7 IS SUPERFLUOUS SINCE (A) AS THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S AGENT THE SURVEYING AGENCY IS INDISTINGUISHABLE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (I.E., RULES ON WHAT INFO SHOULD BE PASSED TO THE HOME OFFICE IS AN INTERNAL MATTER); AND (B) UNDER THE TERMS OF COUNCIL RESOLUTION 286, THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR HAS THE CLEAR DUTY TO REPORT TO

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THE MEMBERSHIP ANY COFFEE FOUND WHICH FAILS TO MEET THE "MINIMUM EXPORT QUALITY" STANDARD. THIS EXPLANATION WAS NOT CHALLENGED.

4. COMMENT: END RESULT WAS THAT THE SECRETARIAT GOT AN APPROVED SET OF RULES ON VERIFICATION WHICH IT CAN EASILY LIVE WITH. THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S AUTHORITY OVER HIS AGENT -- ONE OF THE POINTS EMERGING FROM EARLIER DEBATE WHICH WAS PARTICULARLY TROUBLING -- HAS BEEN CONFIRMED. WHILE SOME EXPORTERS WILL UN-

PRESSURE UPON ALL TO CONFORM. EXPLICITrecognition THAT THE FIRST YEAR WILL BE AN EXPERIMENTAL ONE IS AN IMPROVEMENT. MEXICO, THE FRG AND COSTA RICA MADE PARTICULARLY USEFUL CONTRIBUTIONS DURING THE BOARD MEETING. INTENSIVE CONSULTATIONS IN THE DAYS JUST BEFORE THE MEETING, BETWEEN LONDON REPS OF COLOMBIA, BRAZIL, GUATEMALA, MEXICO, COSTA RICA, THE US AND WITH THE ICO SECRETARIAT WERE ALSO USEFUL IN HEADING OFF WHAT COULD HAVE BECOME A SERIOUS DISPUTE -- INVOLVING PRINCIPALLY THE PRODUCERS AND THE SECRETARIAT -- ON A MAJOR POINT IN THE OPERATION OF THE NEW AGREEMENT.

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